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The Shilton Hotel
Bangalore 1, India
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Dear Lester:

The vignettes are under way. More I cannot predict at the moment - but I am keeping a literary fever-chart, and you will be informed of progress, or lack of it, in due time. Meanwhile, as always, your words encourage me.

This is just to say that I am passing along to His Highness your remarks on a program for an international institute in Asia. I agree, of course: certainly it must be a research outfit and certainly a forum for discussion. Mysore is being thought of here more and more as a sort of little Geneva. Physically, it is one of the very best places for Conferences because annually it triples its population during the Dasara festival and the rest of the year the large-scale facilities just sit. There are some lovely Palaces and Government Guest Houses, and the man in charge of the latter, a Mr. Watsa, appears to be something of a management and catering genius. Psychologically, at least while His Highness is still around, and because of the breadth and depth of his thinking, Mysore is also a suitable place. Whether or not it is the proper place for a full-time permanent office remains to be seen. Some obstacles have arisen which have not left me too cheerful, but I shall continue to do what I can as long as I am able to survive in the process, and I am hopeful of some decisions, one way or another, before this month is over. Practically everyone I have mentioned the subject to in the USA has responded enthusiastically, so I feel there is a growing realization of the need for better communication involving an Indian center; and that this response might indicate the possibility of USA financial cooperation - providing, of course, that the Indian sources first shoulder their share of the responsibility so that we are on terms of equality at every level.

Your remark about Asia being informed objectively about what happens in both the Communist and non-Communist world stumped me a bit. From what I can see, the publications - and especially the good newspapers out here - are for the most part better informed about world realities than ours are - your New York Times and a few others excepted, of course. Except on local affairs, there is much more open-mindedness here, more tolerance, more depth.

I come back, as always, to the central necessity - a small secretariat, or office, or platform from which to launch and plan and encourage a variety of needed projects; with a concurrent and major emphasis always upon the circulation of information, especially to new audiences. Oh, so MUCH could be done!

Thanks for your thoughts regarding this; and I shall report developments, if any.

As ever, devotedly,

Chester

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